

Arizona Republican's Editorial Page

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It is a general popular error to suppose the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare.

—Edmund Burke.

The Farmers and the Town

The farmers of the Salt River Valley think they are not getting a square deal, and they offer so many reasons for thinking so and offer evidence in support of the facts they allege, that the complaint deserves looking into by the merchants of Phoenix, the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, the chamber of commerce and the city commission. We think we all understand that but for the farmers Phoenix would not be much of a town. We acknowledge that the great growth the city has made and the growth we expect it to make, has for its basis the great valley about us. But for these farmers, or other farmers, this valley would be as worthless for all purposes as if water had never been turned upon it.

The farmers complain that they are not patronized properly by the merchants who deal in farm products; that the merchants, instead of buying of them, send abroad for things that can be raised in the valley, and that by the time they have paid freight or express they have paid more than they would have paid to the farmers, in which case the money would be in circulation in Phoenix and vicinity.

The farmers also complain, and their grievance is admitted that it has become difficult for them to trade in Phoenix. The recent experience of one of them is illustrative. He had a case of eggs to sell but on account of the municipal regulations against horses which had been put into force he could not find a place to hitch his horse and buggy within striking distance of any downtown store. From the nearest point he set out and effected a sale. He returned to his vehicle, drove to the store and placed the eggs on the sidewalk. He then drove back to the hitching place; thence he returned to the store, the eggs were delivered, the negotiations were concluded and the empty box was carried to the curbstone. The farmer went back to the hitching place, got his horse and buggy, returned and got his box and started home, whether happy and satisfied or not the deponent saith not.

His experience recalls that old childhood problem of the man who had a fox, a goose and a bag of corn to be carried across a river, one at a time. His task was a simple one in comparison with that of many farmers who come to town to sell produce or spend their money.

There should be a better understanding, for, if there is not, the want of it will grow into a feeling of hostility, and many farmers will do, as we understand some of them are doing now—go to the smaller towns to trade, though they would prefer for many reasons to come to Phoenix. If this town and this valley are to become all we expect them to become there must be a warm and friendly co-operation between the people who live in the town and those who live in the country—between those who have things to sell and those who have things to buy.

Oh, This Miserable Fiasco!

We feel incapable of discussing the proceedings at Florence on Thursday, resulting in the further postponement of the hanging of four brutal murderers. Beyond saying that we believe that the end sought might have been attained in a bolder and more direct manner, we think that comment for the edification of our readers is unnecessary. Every intelligent man and woman understands this matter just as well as we do.

Since the Republican forecast the result at Florence as soon as it was learned last Monday that the application for the writs had been made in the absence of Judge Baughn. Before it was known whom the governor would designate to take jurisdiction, this paper knew that there would be no hanging at Florence yesterday.

Later there appeared a probability that the business of flouting the law again might be spared Arizona; that the demand of the state department for a further reprieve of the murderers might be put in such a way as almost to compel compliance by the board of pardons and paroles. But when the board placed its sworn duty to uphold the laws of Arizona above every consideration of politics and expediency, the murderers were left a single chance, but it was one which could not fail them.

We are weary of discussing this miserable situation which has tried the patience of the people of this state for the last two years. There has been, we believe, nothing like it, nothing so disgraceful in any other state. The nearest parallel to it we can recall is the situation in South Carolina under the administration of the infamous Cole Blaise.

We do not know whether these murderers who ought to have died yesterday and whose death public policy and the people demand, will ever be hanged. But we believe they will be. There may

be, however, ways in which they can be saved, but we think that outraged public opinion will compel their execution.

Perhaps the most serious incident of the episode at Florence, and of the events of which that episode was the culmination, was the blow which has been dealt at the proposition to abolish capital punishment. We believe that there was a strong sentiment in favor of its abolition. Perhaps a majority of the people favored its displacement by a system which would grant society equal protection against murderers. We know of some who so favored the abolition of capital punishment, but who will now oppose it for the illogical, but no less compelling, reason that those who are foremost in the advocacy of it brought about the events of last Thursday.

Becker

Wherever the story of the execution of Becker was read there must have been deep sympathy with his brave wife and sincere regret that a man of so much courage who could remain so calm and composed amid the most frightful circumstances of his own making should so die. Becker must have been very much of a man. The system into which he was plunged was responsible for his ignominious fate, and it is a system which prevails in most large American cities, many smaller ones, and is so rare in European cities that it may be regarded as an American institution. Many a man as good as Becker has succumbed to graft.

Becker made the mistake of supposing that he was so protected, so surrounded, so powerful as to be beyond the processes which punish the isolated offender. There seemed no weak place in the system of which he had become a part, the most active instrument.

It would be an interesting study of his downfall if we could trace the steps of his undoing from the moment he ceased to be the conscientious and reliable officer he had been until, with the shock in the electric chair, his body lunged against the straining straps. We can easily see how the descent may be so gradual that the sliding one is not really conscious of wrongdoing. He is carried down by the surrounding system, as unconscious of motion as we dwellers upon the earth, with our atmospheric surroundings which are carried with us, are without perception of the earth's diurnal and annual motions.

There are those who believe that crime is the result of environment rather than individual depravity, and that, therefore, the criminal should be dealt with leniently. We believe there was never a plainer instance of crime as the result of environment than the Becker case presents, but any leniency toward him would have been as fatal as it would have been foolish. The shock which he suffered was not administered to Becker, but to the system; that it was fatal to him was only necessarily incidental.

It was intended that other men should perceive that no criminal system could be superior to the wishes of the people as those wishes are expressed in law. A less impressive punishment than was administered to the system through Becker would have been ineffectual. It would not have deterred his successors from falling victims to the system. It will be a long time in New York before another police officer, however buttressed and influential, will take the power of life and death into his hands. It will be a long time before another police officer will engage in a secret league with crime.

The system suffered a paralyzing shock by the same current that deprived Becker of his life.

We learn, my dear children, from a study of the events at Florence on Thursday that though the beans may be applied they are not irretrievably lost. It is possible to gather them up and restore them to the bean-pot. Gathering scattered beans from the floor is necessarily an occupation which requires one to put himself into a position in which neither grace nor dignity may be displayed, but the main thing is to save the beans.

The schedule which the German airmen dropped into Warsaw a month ago, and which informed the Russians the Germans desired to occupy the city not later than August 1, seems to have been regarded by the Slavs as an official thirty-day notice to quit and get off the earth or that part of it within the boundaries of Poland.

To the crime of sinking our ships, the Germans appear to have added the crime of forging American passports. We are apt to come to believe that Germany is the outlaw that England says it is.

The inquiry into the causes of the Eastland disaster, so far as it has proceeded, appears that that cranky steamer with malice aforethought deliberately sunk herself to spite the federal inspectors.

If we engage in military operations in Mexico in behalf of Villa, it is no more than right that the Standard Oil company should finance the campaign. For military expenditures, we will not consider its money tainted.

RENEWING WHITE HATS

Time without number I had cleaned fine white straw hats with the usual preparations. At times I was successful, again the result was not so good. Last year I tried my luck cleaning a very fine straw. I applied the liquid white shoe polish, allowed it to dry, then brushed it lightly. I have used nothing so successful and found my hat looking clean and new. I tried the same on a hat unburned a deep, ugly brown. It cleaned as if by magic.

SCOUTS TO HELP REFORESTING

Albany—Steps have been taken by the New York State Forestry Association to enlist New York boy scouts in a statewide movement to reforest denuded land. The association will give five hundred bronze medals which scoutmasters will award to scouts for reforestation and tree planting along state highways and municipal watersheds. New York Sun.

Where the People May Have Hearing

To the Editor of The Republican.

Sir: Why can't the farmers have a man in the Water Users office to check the water runs instead of each individual having to check on the water he uses?

It seems the U. S. R. S. cannot keep these correctly as I have found mistakes each season that I have kept track of the water used and so have many others.

For the season ending October 1915, I received a refund of \$17.85 after waiting about three months for it.

For the season ending October 1914, I received a refund of \$5.75.

If they make mistakes like this on one, why not on others and those who do not keep account of the water used pay for it and get nothing.

I also think it unfair charging seventy-five cents the fourth acre foot of water used as the users of this amount are the intensive farmers or gardeners or fruit grower who is doing more to build up the country than the hay and grain farmer.

I planted ten acres of apricots this spring and will use four feet on this ten acres.

As I have put out an orchard that adds to the value of all the adjoining land, I am fined twenty-five cents per acre just because this crop requires more water than the common crops.

It does not cost any more to run this fourth foot and it really looks as though they wanted to discourage our farming our land for all it is able to produce.

My other ten acres grew wheat and now has maize and this will also use four feet of water; so I am fined another \$25.00 for trying to raise two crops in one season.

ALBERT CONNOR,
Glendale, Ariz., July 21.

CULTIVATION OF THE ORCHARD

When our forefathers planted out their orchards on the hills of New England they counted little upon cultivation for increasing the productivity of these orchards. Indeed it would be practically impossible to cultivate some of the hillside orchards of the humid regions of the country, for if clean culture were practiced all of the soil would wash away, says Prof. S. R. Johnson, assistant horticulturist of the U. of A. agricultural experiment station.

As the settlement of the country progressed westward where the rainfall was less it occurred to thoughtful men that trees could not compete with all kinds of plants and still produce a maximum crop. This led to a system of clean culture for the orchard. Soon this system was taken up and practiced by the best growers and out of it grew cultivation which had for its object not only to keep down the weeds but also the conservation of the soil moisture. The results secured from this clean culture were very gratifying in the beginning. However, the error in such a system lay in the fact that the soil received no addition to the organic matter except from the leaves and decayed fruit. This source is not sufficient. The depletion of the supply of organic matter is indicated by the "lifeless, cloddy" appearance of the soil. The cultivator finds that, after a few years of clean culture, the soil lacks the friable or crumbly texture it once had.

It has been found that there are two ways of preventing this condition or restoring a desirable soil texture. These ways are by applying animal manures or by growing green manure crops on the land and turning them under. The better method is generally the cheapest and best way because a cover crop can only supply organic matter to the soil, but it can be sown at a time when it can take surplus moisture, thereby checking the growth of trees, promoting the formation of fruit buds and hardening up the wood of the trees so that they will go into winter in good condition. Arizona is fortunate in having a good part of her rain come at a suitable season for growing a cover crop, namely in the latter part of the summer.

Irrigation of the orchard has also undergone a change in recent years. Instead of shallow furrows deep furrows are used by the best growers. The advantage of the deep furrow lies in the fact that the surface soil can be kept dry and the water goes into the subsoil where it is needed. Shallow furrows encourage shallow rooting of the trees. The roots are disturbed in cultivation and are affected more by heat and drought.

Briefly, the season's cultivation is as follows: Late winter or early spring, disking and plowing of the orchard. The disking is to incorporate the vegetable matter with the soil. Water applied at this time can be retained in the soil for spring growth by the maintaining of a good mulch. Clean culture is the rule for the growing season. Sheep and hogs are very effective in keeping down weeds close to the trees, although using the best types of orchard tools such as the extension disk and other orchard harrows, there is very little uncultivated area. Irrigation is not necessary oftener than every 30 days of it is thoroughly done by letting the water run slowly through deep furrows. There is no rule for when to irrigate, however, cultivation should follow every irrigation until the summer. At this time a cover crop is planted or if a winter cover crop is preferred the planting is deferred until fall and the growth felt on the land until the late winter or early spring disking and plowing.

JUST WHERE THEY ARE

Aunt Mary (visiting in the city)—I want to hear at least one of your famous grand opera singers and then see some of your leading actors.

Nepcow (the office boy)—Jimmy, get us some tickets for the vaudeville and movies.—Life.

HONDURAS DIPLOMAT BECOMES PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, July 30.—Dr. Alberto Membrillo, who left for his home in Honduras early this month, will become president of that country on Sunday. He has been here as ambassador of the Central American republic for three years, and is called upon to fill in the presidency for six months, on the withdrawal of Dr. Francisco Beltrán, the president, who must be six months out of office before he can be re-elected.

The new president of Honduras is popularly known here in official circles. He was born at Tegucigalpa July 12, 1859, was educated at the University of Honduras, and became a leading lawyer in his home country. He became judge of the supreme court of Honduras before entering diplomatic life. He was sent to Spain, to Mexico and thence to the United States. He is an able writer and speaker on historical and legal topics.

The office made vacant by Dr. Membrillo's call to the presidency is being filled here by Dr. Juan Rustillo Rivera, the Honduran consul-general at Liverpool, and one of the political leaders of Honduras.

Dr. Rivera says that there is no grounds for rumors of revolution in Honduras. He says there has been some criticism of President Beltrán's efforts to secure re-election, but the disgruntled politicians, he believes, are in the minority.

"In view of these criticisms, President Beltrán has announced that he will divorce absolutely all of his relations with the government during the next six months," explained Dr. Rivera, "in order that the election may be free and constitutional. He has promised to have no relations whatever with the acting president, desiring to avoid any suspicion of receiving unjustly the active support of the civil or military authorities of Honduras."

The Honduras general elections will take place in October. After the six months interim, Dr. Beltrán will again assume the presidency, if he is elected at the polls, and he will have fulfilled the constitutional provisions that a president cannot be elected while in actual discharge of the duties of that office.

THE TYPHOID FLY AND SOIL FERTILITY

We should not forget that house flies travel for considerable distances, and that one of the favorite breeding places of this dangerous nuisance is the manure pile. A trip about the edges of most Arizona cities will reveal hundreds of piles of this pestilence-breeding, but precious stuff scattered about the vacant places—a constant reminder of our reckless and wanton extravagance, suggests Dr. A. E. Vinson, biochemist of the U. of A. agricultural experiment station. Upon the surface these seething heaps become a curse on the whole community, but under the ground, where they belong, they will bless us with prosperity.

Within a few miles of most of our cities there are hundreds of acres of land crying out for this food which they need so badly, and which is being ruthlessly burned up by the sun, washed away by the showers, blown about by the winds and lost forever. That farm with adobe soil would become a rich mellow garden by several liberal applications of this waste; or that stretch of sand would be given a new hold on its share of a never to abundant supply of water, and would bring to its owner a correspondingly increased crop. We have labored already too long under the hallucination that Arizona soils are over fertile, and often have forgotten entirely that good mechanical condition is essential to reap the harvest of natural fertility.

Arizona soils in general are all right, as good as any in the world—if we make them so. We scour the

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Straw Hats at 1/2 Off

mountains in search of gold and leave true wealth, in the rough, to become the plague spots of our communities.

But what is the real commercial value of the common stable manure? Three constituents of this waste are much sought for and command good prices in the world's markets today. Our fellow farmers back East are paying about 29c. a pound for nitrogen, 4c. for phosphoric acid, and 5c. for potash in commercial fertilizers, that have not nearly the value the same food elements have when found in stable manure. The humus supplied the soil by manure is worth even more than the accompanying food elements because humus is the master key that unlocks the potential fertility in our soils. Some day we will be found going to the store to buy this same fertility we are now wasting. It will come higher, and no master key, such as we might now have for taking it home, will be found in the sack. Farmers in New York are paying today at the rate of not less than \$2.50 for the sacked condensed plant food contained in one ton of manure that now outrages our sense of beauty and presents us with swarms of flies. Just add the freight, and don't be behind the time and forget the up-to-date profits, and you will have what the plant food equivalent of a ton of

manure is going to cost you in Arizona.

Every ounce of manure from our cities should find its way into our soils, and that would be only a drop in the bucket to what could be used with profit.

Hire a little salesman at The Republican office. Want Ad will see more customers than you can.

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